**Please send a support letter – On your letter head**

**Sample Support Letter – Assembly Bill 2413 (Ting/Wiener)**

**Send Email To:** Tara Gamboa-Eastman, Tara.Gamboa-Eastman@asm.ca.gov

**CC copy to:** csend@cwda.org and wtountas@cwda.org

**Submit via the portal:** [**https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/**](https://calegislation.lc.ca.gov/Advocates/)

**[Date] – Due by March 17**

The Honorable Eloise Gómez Reyes, Chair

Assembly Human Services Committee

State Capitol, Room 2175

Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 2413 (Ting/Wiener) – The More CalFresh, Less Hunger Act – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Reyes:

[Name of Your Organization] supports Assembly Bill 2413 (Ting/Wiener), which makes important policy and practice changes that will streamline CalFresh enrollment and retention to increase the state’s participation rate.

[Please include a brief description of organization]

Over the past year, counties working in partnership with the state and advocacy organizations have achieved the successful implementation of a statewide policy change making SSI recipients eligible for CalFresh benefits. While the overall national participation rate in SNAP (the federal name for CalFresh) has declined, California has been a bright spot with an increase of over 200,000 households during this time.

However, a significant number of low-income Californians are not receiving these critical nutrition benefits for themselves and/or their families. Chronic hunger makes it more difficult for children to concentrate in school and adults to achieve success in the workplace. It is therefore critical to do everything possible to enroll and retain as many eligible households as possible in the program.

AB 2413 would make significant strides toward this goal by enacting state policy and practice changes that seek to reduce paperwork burden for current clients who submit semi-annual reports, as well as reducing the verifications collected by counties when individuals apply the program or seek recertification of benefits. Additionally, the bill would leverage the reach of Medi-Cal, our largest safety net program, which covers one in three Californians, to ensure individuals can apply for CalFresh and be determined eligible at the same time they are applying for or renewing Medi-Cal, and increasing outreach to community assisters who today focus on Medi-Cal but can also help boost CalFresh enrollment. The use of innovative interviewing techniques as well as text message reminders for customers to turn in needed documents are also required under the bill, practices that some counties already have in place.

AB 2413 is estimated to increase rolls by 200,000 households over five years, bringing in an estimated half-billion dollars in new federally paid CalFresh benefits to families and reducing hunger as a result. In addition, these new benefits will boost the state’s economy as well as its tax rolls.

For these reasons, [name of your organization] strongly supports AB 2413.

Sincerely,

**Your Name and Title**

CC: The Honorable Phil Ting

 The Honorable Scott Wiener

County Welfare Directors Association of California